Ideas for Activities with Inclusion Students

Punch-Out Constellations

Assign students a constellation. Students should research the story behind the constellation and find a picture (preferably a line drawing) of the constellation. Provide students with black construction paper or cardstock, a writing utensil that will show up on the black, and straight pins. Students should draw the line drawing of the constellation on the black paper. Then, the locations of the stars in the constellation should be punched out with the pins. The room is darkened, with only a single incandescent bulb for illumination. Hold the students’ pin-prick diagrams in front of the bulb, and view the constellations as they would appear in the night sky.

Ceiling Tiles

If your administration will allow it, remove ceiling tiles from your classroom for painting. Ask students to paint scenes demonstrating topics from your course. You may want to ask for a preliminary design to approve the plan before the tile is painted. Offer options with paint, such as glow-in-the-dark, neon, or glitter.

Wind-Driven Ocean Circulation

Fill a baking dish with water. Drop food coloring at one end of the dish. Place a fan on the end with the dye. Turn on the fan, and adjust it so that a bulge is created at the bottom of the water. The dye will move around at the top. Place a small bowl in the dish as an obstruction (island). Drop a different color of food coloring between the bowl and the fan. Observe the effect of the obstruction on the current. Swap the bowl for a plate to create a submerged obstruction (seamount). Drop a third dye color between the plate and the fan. This represents a single geostrophic gyre system. The sides of the container serve as continents.

Coastal Structures Activity

In a baking dish, build a sand beach. Stick a six inch ruler into the sand (sticking out like a groin on the coast). Add water slowly opposite the beach being careful not to cloud the water. Use your hand to create waves at an angle. Have students observe the beach erosion and deposition created by the waves.